

REMARKS

Applicants have added new claim 29 to further protect a specific embodiment of the present invention. The subject matter of new claim 29 depend on original claim 7 and would thus belong to elected species II and should be examined with the elected claims. Support for the new claim can be found throughout the specification and the original claims. Thus, claims 1-29 are pending in this application, with claims 4, 6, 10-12, 18, 20-25 and 28 being withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse this restriction requirement since the examination of all the claims of this application, claims 1-29, poses no undue burden on the Examiner. It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search of the subject matter of any one group of claims would necessarily encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden (see MPEP 803 which is stated that "*if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims that are distinct or independent inventions*" (emphasis added)).

It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply to the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and the duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in optimal form for examination. Accordingly, favorable examination on the merit is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. HOK-0270 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 180013 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.